1	2	3
5.	Number of PWD road damaged Semi-permanent	1773
6.	timber bridge damaged Approach to semi-	176 Nos.
7.	permanent timber bridges damaged	779 Nos.
8.	Embankments breached	183 Nos.

Maintenance of old dams

†1625. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than a hundred major dams in the country are over hundred years old and time-limit of utility of most of them has expired;

(b) whether such dams having weak structure would not cause heavy disaster at the time of national calamities like earthquake;

(c) whether any arrangement is being made at national level for secured maintenance of these dams; and

(d) the total amount of funds allocated for these dams during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are 99 dams in the country (as per the National Register of Large Dams 2002) which have been become more than 100 years old. It cannot be said that the time limit of utility of most of them has expired, as they are still being utilized for the purpose for which they were built.

(b) Any properly engineered and maintained dam has no limit of life with regard to its safety. As per the records available in Central Water Commission, no dam has been reported weak.

(c) Maintenance of the dams is the responsibility of the State Government/dams owners. At national level, a Dam Safety Organisation (DSO) was established in Central Water Commission in May 1979 to develop guidelines for Safety Inspection of Dams, Check Lists, Formats for Data Book and Periodical Inspection of Dams and other dam safety literature which have been provided to all the States for guidance of the field engineers. A draft Legislation on Dam Safety has also been prepared and circulated to all the States for adoption.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Safety of Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala

1626. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the safety of Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to examine safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam, Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the competent authority of Kerala has sought the Central Government intervention to facilitate proper inspection of Mullaperiyar Dam;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) if so, the action taken in details, if any; and

(g) if not, the reasons in detail for not initiating any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRl JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (b) State Government are the owners of the dams and as such the responsibility of dam safety rests with them. The role of the Central Government is confined to giving advisory services with regard to safety and rehabilitation of such dams. As per the Dam Safety Procedures laid down by the Standing Committee of Dams in India, all large dam (irresepctive of their age) are required to be inspected twice a year during the pre-and post-monsoon periods. These inspections are to be carried out by the Dam Safety Organizations of respective States/owners of dams and the consolidated information is to be submitted in the form of Annual Reports to Dam Safety Monitoring Directorate, Central Water Commission.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) An all party Delegation of Government of Kerala met Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31.8.2006 and gave a memorandum, wherein, they have requested Government of India for immediate intervention in the matter so as to persuade Tamil Nadu to come forward for an amicable settlement of the issue. They have also raised the issues of Government of Tamil Nadu's non-cooperation in the joint inspection of the seepage management, instrumentation of the Mullaperiyar Dam and not allowing Kerala Officers to access the basic data for evaluating the safety of the dam.

Meanwhile, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 on the suit filed by Government of Tamil Nadu paying for Declaration of Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act 2006 passed by Kerala Legislature as unconstitutional, stating "the two State Government independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute".

The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting of the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 at New Delhi. Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) further discussed matter with the Ministers (WR/PW) from the States of Tamil Nadu & Kerala on 18.12.2006. The States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala reiterated their respective stand in the meetings and no consensus could be reached regarding a solution acceptable to both States.

Inspection of Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala

1627. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the 110 years old Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala cannot withstand an earthquake of magnitude between 3 and 5 on the Richter Scale which is probable in the area;

(b) whether the State Government of Kerala has demanded that Centre intervenes to facilitate proper inspection of the Mullaperiyar Dam as Tamil Nadu is not co-operating with the State Government of Kerala in this matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Ministry of Water Resources constituted an Expert